



Attorney Docket No. MP/177

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Applicant : Bauman et al.  
Appl. No. : 10/666,204  
Filed : September 17, 2003  
Title : CIRCULAR STAPLER BUTTRESS

*I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313 on March 4, 2004.*

*Melanee Williams*  
Melanee Williams

Group AU : 3731

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

**SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT**

Dear Sir:

Pursuant to 37 CFR § 1.56 and in accordance with 37 C.F.R. §§1.97-1.98, information relating to the above-identified application is hereby disclosed. Inclusion of information in this statement is not to be construed as an admission that this information is material as that term is defined in 37 C.F.R. §1.56(b). Copies of each of the non-patent and foreign patent references listed on the attached Form PTO 1449 are enclosed herewith.

In accordance with § 1.97(b), since this Information Disclosure Statement is being filed either within three months of the filing date of the above-identified application, within three months of the date of entry into the national stage of the above-identified application as set forth in §1.491, or before the mailing date of a first Office Action on the merits of the above-identified application, no additional fee is required.

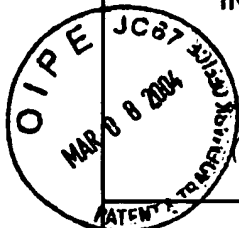
Respectfully Submitted,

*Eric J. Sheets*

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Date:

4 March 2004



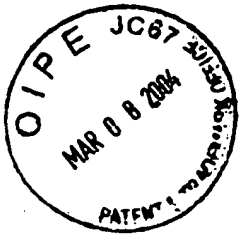
<b>INFORMATION DISCLOSURE CITATION</b>  <b>IN AN APPLICATION</b>  (Use several sheets if necessary)	<b>Docket Number</b> MP/177	<b>Serial Number</b> 10/666,204
	<b>Applicant(s)</b> Bauman et al.	
	<b>Filing Date</b> September 17, 2003	<b>Group Art Unit</b> 3731

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS						
EXAMINER INITIAL	DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUBCLASS	FILING DATE IF APPROPRIATE
	2003/0178465	9/25/2003	Bilotti et al.	227	180.1	

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS							
	DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	COUNTRY	CLASS	SUBCLASS	Translation YES / NO	
	01/54594	02.08.2001	WO				

<b>EXAMINER</b>	<b>DATE CONSIDERED</b>
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EXAMINER: Initial if citation considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP Section 609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

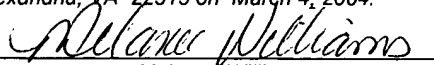


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Melanee Williams  
3/4/04  
(date of mailing document)

Group AU : 3731

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P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

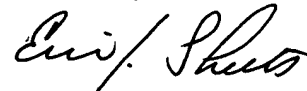
**LETTER OF TRANSMITTAL**

Dear Sir:

We enclose the following papers for filing in the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office in connection with the above-identified Patent Application:

1. Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement (1 page)
2. Information Disclosure Citation Form PTO 1449 (1 page)
3. Foreign Reference Cited (1 document)

Respectfully submitted,



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